

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 03258 160500Z

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S E C R E T JAKARTA 3258

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SUBJ: AMBASSADOR SOEDJATMOKO FOREIGN TRAVEL BANNED

REF: JAKARTA 3209

1. THROUGH SOEDJATMOKO (INDONESIAN INTELLECTUAL, ADVISER TO FOREIGN MINISTER MALIK AND NATIONAL PLANNING BOARD-BAPPENAS, FORMER MEMBER OF FORD FOUNDATION AND ASPEN INSTITUTE) WE HAVE LEARNED THAT GOI, WITH AT LEAST APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO, HAS ISSUED ORDERS THAT FOLLOWING FIVE INDONESIANS MAY NOT LEAVE COUNTRY, ON UNSPECIFIED POLITICAL GROUNDS.

A. SOEDJATMOKO;

B. MOCHTAR LUBIS, PROMINENT NEWSPAPER EDITOR WITH NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE TIES WHO WAS ARRESTED DURING SUKARNO ERA;

C. SUDARPO SASTROSATOMO, SHIPPING MAGNATE AND BROTHER OF DETAINED FORMER SOCIALIST PARTY CHAIRMAN SUBADIO;

D. OMAR KHAYAM, LEADING LITERARY FIGURE AND SOEDJATMOKO PROTEGE;

E. HENK TOMBOKAN, POLITICAL ACTIVIST WITH OSI PAST,
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PAGE 02 JAKART 03258 160500Z

CRONY OF RESEARCH MINISTER SUMITRO, MENDONESE. A

WARRANT HAS BEEN OUT FOR HIS ARREST SINCE JANUARY DISORDERS AND, AS A FUGITIVE FROM JUSTICE, HIS CASE IS CLEARLY DIFFERENT FROM OTHER FOUR.

2. THE EXACT CHANNEL THROUGH WHICH INSTRUCTIONS WAS ISSUED AND REASONS FOR IT ARE UNCLEAR, BUT WHEN ALEX ALATAS, CHIEF OF MALIK'S PERSONAL STAFF QUERIED ADMIRAL SOEDOMO, CHIEF OF STAFF OF KOPKAMTIB, HE WAS TOLD KOPKAMTIB KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ORDER WHICH HAD BEEN SENT TO AUTHORITIES CONTROLLING ISSUANCE OF EXIT PERMITS. SOEDOMO ALSO CLAIMED HE NOT AWARE OF SOEDJATMOKO'S INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS AND REPUTATION, WHICH ALATAS HAD EVOKED IN SEEKING LIFTING OF BAN TO ENABLE SOEDJATMOKO DEPART JAKARTA MARCH 21 TO ATTEND FORD FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING, ETC.

3. ALATAS ALSO TOLD SOEDJATMOKO THAT MALIK RAISED MATTER WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO ON MARCH 12. PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO BE ABLE TO INTERROGATE PEOPLE IN WHOSE DIRECTION THE INVESTIGATION OF THE RECENT DISORDERS SEEMS TO LEAD. SUHARTO SAID FLATLY HE WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THIS PROCESS OR LIFT THE BAN ON SOEDJATMOKO'S TRAVEL.

4. SINCE SOEDJATMOKO WAS SCHEDULED TO ADDRESS INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL (IDRC) IN DAKAR MARCH 23, HE INFORMED CANADIAN AMBASSADOR DELWORTH HERE. IDRC IS CANADIAN-FUNDED AND SOEDJATMOKO WAS NAMED TO GOVERNING BODY OF IDRC BY CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

5. SOEDJATMOKO ALSO INFORMED LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF FORD FOUNDATION THROUGH WHOM HE HAS SENT LETTER TO MCGEORGE BUNDY. SOEDJATMOKO SAYS TRAVEL BAN NOT PUBLICISED AND HE LEARNED OF IT ONLY THROUGH FRIENDS WHEN HE SOUGHT EXIT PERMIT RENEWAL. HE DOES NOT INTEND TO INFORM PRESS AND HOPES BAN WILL NOT COME TO PUBLIC ATTENTION.

6. COMMENT: GIVEN SOEDJATMOKO'S INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS, STORY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY LEAK AND
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PAGE 03 JAKARTA 03258 160500Z

WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CAUSE STRONG REACTION AGAINST PRESENT INDONEISAN REGIME IN SOME AMERICAN AND FOREIGN CIRCLES.
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